

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 2, 2004 wherein claims 1-9, 12, and 14-20 were rejected under 35 USC §102 (e) as being anticipated by Hanson et al. (US 2002/156558); and claims 10, 11 and 13 were rejected under USC §103 (a) over Hanson et al. in view of Maus et al. (US 2002/128864). In this amendment, claims 1, 14 and 20 were amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-9, 12, and 14-20 under 35 USC §102 (e) on Hanson et al. is respectfully traversed. The present invention, as claimed in independent Claims 1, 14 and 20 is patentable over the Hanson reference. "Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration." W.L. Gore & Associates v. Garlock, Inc., 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Independent claims 1, 14 and 20 have been amended to more clearly recite the invention. As amended, claims 1, 14 and 20 now recite a portable computer with communication capability disposed on the field asset and adapted to store a maintenance history wherein the maintenance history comprising records of repairs, maintenance and parts for the field asset. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraph 14.

The Hanson reference does not disclose each element of the present invention as claimed in claims 1, 14 and 20. Specifically, the Hanson reference does not teach or suggest the recited on-board computing device disposed on a given field asset and adapted to store a maintenance history and a plurality of sources of maintenance instructions, as specifically recited by Applicants' amended claims and as defined by Applicants' specification. The Hanson reference instead teaches a monitoring system for a vehicle including an operator interface coupled to the vehicle which runs a diagnostic algorithm that asks a series of yes/no questions of an operator for use in diagnosing a problem, a plurality of sensors for monitoring sensor information such as temperature, time and the like, and a wireless communication device coupled to the operator interface and sensors for communicating information to a remote central data center. Nowhere does the Hanson reference show, teach or disclose storing maintenance history information, such as repairs, maintenance records and parts. Hanson by contrast discloses a monitoring system based on operator input and sensor information of an existing vehicle and wireless communication device. Thus, there is no teaching, disclosure or suggestion of all elements of Applicants' present invention. Therefore, the present invention, as claimed in

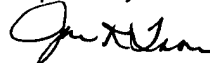
amended Claims 1, 14 and 20 is not anticipated by the Hanson reference. Claims 2-13 and 15-19 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 14, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2-13 and 15-19 are allowable by dependency. Therefore, as stated above, the present invention, as claimed in Claims 1-20 is patentable over the Hanson reference. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-9, 12 and 14-20 under 35 USC §102 be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 10-11 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) over Hanson in view of Maus et al. As discussed with reference to the rejection under 35 USC §102 (e) above, the Hanson reference does not show or suggest all of elements of Applicants' recited invention. The Maus reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the Hanson reference. The Maus reference merely discloses a computerized data acquisition system including multimedia formats. Nowhere does the Maus reference teach, disclose or suggest a maintenance management system as recited in Applicants' claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that there would be no reasonable combination of the Hanson and Maus references by one skilled in the art that would obtain Applicants' invention, particularly as recited in amended independent claim 1, from which the rejected claims 10-11 and 13 depend. Therefore, Applicants' respectfully submit that claims 10-11 and 13 are allowable and requests that the rejections under 35 USC §103 (a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean K. Testa
Reg. No. 39,396

General Electric Company
Building K1, Room 3A62
Schenectady, New York 12301

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Telephone: (518) 387-5115 or
(518) 387-7122